

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment comprising the steps of:
 - evaluating a plurality of contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritizing the contexts based upon an access characteristic, said evaluating being applied to speech enabled applications whether the application is running or not;
 - receiving a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple applications, any subset of which may or may not be running; and
 - directing the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon results of the step of evaluating the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step, prior to evaluating the contexts, of creating the contexts for the speech enabled applications in the speech enabled environment.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of identifying each context based on a persistent grammar, a foreground grammar, or a background grammar for each speech enabled application.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of evaluating contexts comprises prioritizing the contexts based on the access characteristic.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the access characteristic is based on recency of relevant access to the context.
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of directing the representation of the spoken utterance comprises using a grammar to identify and select a context of the selected speech enabled application.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the grammar is a Backus Naur Form grammar.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment, comprising:
 - a context manager for evaluating a plurality of contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritizing the contexts based upon an access characteristic, said context manager evaluating each speech enabled application whether the application is running or not; and
 - a message handler for receiving a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple applications, any subset of which may or may not be running;
 - the context manager receiving the representation of the spoken utterance from the message handler and directing the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon the evaluating of the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager, prior to evaluating the contexts, creates the contexts for the speech enabled applications in the speech enabled environment.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager identifies each context based on a persistent grammar, a foreground grammar, or a background grammar for each speech enabled application.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager prioritizes the contexts based on the access characteristic.
12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the access characteristic is based on recency of relevant access to the context.
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the context manager uses a grammar to identify the selected speech enabled application.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the grammar is a Backus Naur Form grammar.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
 - a computer usable medium for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment; and
 - a set of computer program instructions embodied on the computer useable medium, including instructions to:
 - evaluate contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritize the contexts based upon an access characteristic, regardless of the speech enabled applications' running state;
 - receive a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple applications, any subset of which may or may not be running; and
 - direct the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon the evaluation of the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.

16. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions, prior to evaluating the contexts, to create the contexts for the speech enabled applications in the speech enabled environment.
17. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions to identify each context based on a persistent grammar, a foreground grammar, or a background grammar for each speech enabled application.
18. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions to prioritize the contexts based on the access characteristic.
19. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the access characteristic is based on recency of relevant access to the context.
20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the set of computer instructions comprises further instructions to use a grammar to identify the selected speech enabled application.
21. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20, wherein the grammar is a Backus Naur Form grammar.
22. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a speech-enabled application to receive a spoken utterance in a multi-context speech enabled environment comprising the steps of:
 - evaluating a plurality of contexts for speech enabled applications and prioritizing the contexts based upon a recency of access characteristic;
 - receiving a representation of a spoken utterance, the spoken utterance including a command that is able to be associated with multiple approaches; and

directing the representation of the spoken utterance to a selected speech enabled application based upon results of the step of evaluating the contexts, wherein the command is applied to the selected speech enabled application including launching the selected speech enabled application as needed and performing function of the command.

23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 22 wherein said directing is biased to the most recently accessed application.